

P R E S S R E L E A S E

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**BLAYLOCK ROBERT VAN HIRES VETERAN
MUNICIPAL FINANCE VETERAN ROBERT CERESA**

Oakland, CA, July 26, 2010 – Blaylock Robert Van LLC, (BRV) a leading minority-owned investment bank and financial services company, announced today that Robert Ceresa has joined the firm as an executive vice president effective July 19.

Mr. Ceresa will be responsible for helping to further build the firm's municipal finance sales, trading, and underwriting business. He will report to Eric Standifer, president and CEO of Blaylock Robert Van.

Mr. Ceresa joins BRV with over 30 of years experience in the municipal finance industry. He was most recently partner and executive vice-president at Grigsby & Associates, a minority owned investment bank, where he opened a New York City office for the San Francisco-based firm and developed a municipal sales, trading, and underwriting team. Before Grigsby & Associates, Mr. Ceresa was a senior vice president at M.R. Beal & Company, an investment

bank specializing in municipal finance, corporate finance, and equity execution.

Earlier in his career, Mr. Ceresa worked in the municipal finance departments at several investment banks including E.F. Hutton & Co., Wertheim & Company, Rothschild, and Oppenheimer.

Mr. Ceresa was the author of "The New York News Letter," a newsletter that promoted New York municipalities to institutional investors throughout the country, which was published from 1980 to 1997. Mr. Ceresa was also responsible for the first "New York Seminar," an informational session used at Wertheim & Co., Purcell Graham and E.F. Hutton that allowed New York municipalities to present their programs and agendas to institutional and high net worth investors.

Mr. Ceresa earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in history and political science at Iona College and a Master of Arts degree in history and political science at Long Island University. He is a member of Municipal Bond Club of New York.

ABOUT BLAYLOCK ROBERT VAN, LLC

Blaylock Robert Van, LLC is a leading minority-owned investment banking boutique offering innovative sales and trading, capital markets underwriting, and proprietary equity research. The firm's mission hinges upon a single-minded focus on understanding and delivering financial services of the highest quality. Blaylock Robert Van LLC provides asset managers with global electronic equity trading capabilities to more than 40 worldwide exchanges and provides institutional research through its proprietary platform *ELROI - The Electronic Analyst*®, a web-based research tool for constructing and testing actionable portfolio strategies. The firm also owns SPI Strategies LLC, an investment advisory. Based in Oakland, CA, Blaylock Robert Van LLC also has offices in Chicago, Cleveland, Los Angeles, Miami, and New York City. The firm

is a member of FINRA, MSRB and SIPC.

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